

10-11-2007

## UA12/2/1 College Heights Herald, Vol. 83, No. 12

WKU Student Affairs

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WKU

MF

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ONLINE

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The Herald covers today's 1000 words "A dog's best friend."

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67°/42°

SATURDAY

72°/43°

SUNDAY

76°/49°

MONDAY

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COLLEGE HEIGHTS

HERALD

Thursday, October 11, 2007

Volume 83, Number 12

Western Kentucky University

Bowling Green, Kentucky

www.wkuherald.com



(Above) Louisville junior David Stickler and Louisville sophomore Katie Burchett share a kiss outside of Garrett Conference Center after eating lunch together on Monday. The couple have been dating since high school and are engaged. Because of their hectic schedules, they both make every effort to spend time with each other, and sometimes that only means during lunch.

(Below) Stickler and Burchett talk with friends in the lobby of Barnes-Campbell Hall.

Engaged college students face more challenges than other couples

JILL ERWIN

Herald reporter

While some little girls lounge comfortably on their couches at home, nestled under thick blankets and plush pillows, watching Cinderella find her prince charming, a Western sophomore found hers — in Cinderella's castle.

It was spring break of 2007, and while many of her Western counterparts partied around the clock with beers in hand, Louisville sophomore Katie Burchett sat in a castle far, far away.

Well, sort of.

Away in hot, misty Florida there's a Disney's Magic Kingdom where Louisville junior David Stickler gave Burchett the surprise of her life: a proposal of princess proportions, literally.

And he gave it to her in a glass slipper.

More couples are getting engaged earlier in life as opposed to waiting until after graduating from college. According to www.prb.org, about 22 percent of women ages 18 to 24 are married.

The National Association of Wedding Ministers also report that the average age of a first-time bride is 25 years old. The average age of a first-time groom is 27.5 years old.

Aaron Kindsvatter, assistant professor of counseling and student affairs, said many problems can arise in a marriage between

young individuals, especially if minor conflicts are not addressed.

"Since the brain is still developing, most haven't identified themselves yet, so it is easier for younger people to want their own way," Kindsvatter said. "Problems can occur from something as mundane as picking up your socks or being a complete slob."



SEE ENGAGED, PAGE 9

Junior raises awareness about African issues

MICHELL DAY

Herald reporter

Alex Fortson has developed his own philosophy about life.

"I decided the best way to live my life was for the benefit of others," Fortson said.

The junior from Orlando, Fla., developed that philosophy after traveling to Uganda and touring for four months in a 15-passenger van around the mid-Atlantic region of the United States to raise awareness about Invisible Children.

Invisible Children is a media-based organization that documents the stories of children affected by war in areas such as northern Uganda, said Michelle Larson, office manager for

Invisible Children.

The organization's goal is to inspire leaders to push for change in war-torn countries and supply financial aid for those countries, Larson said.

Fortson is working with Social Justice and Students Against Monotony to increase awareness at Western about Schools for Schools, Invisible Children's effort to raise \$2.5 million to rebuild 10 schools in Uganda.

Fortson is working to bring the Schools for Schools movement to Western as a joint fundraiser with SAM and Social Justice.

"We want to tell as many people as we can to raise awareness," Fortson said.

SEE ISSUES, PAGE 11

Event aims to end poverty

Organizations to participate in Stand Up Against Poverty Day

MICHELLE DAY

Herald reporter

Matt Vaughan wanted to change the world when he came to college.

The freshman from Mexico, Mo. has his first opportunity as a leader of Western's chapter of Americans for an Informed Democracy, which is sponsoring Stand Up Against Poverty Day at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colonnade.

Stand Up Against Poverty is a 24-hour global event organized by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty and the United Nations Millennium Campaign.

Stand Up is meant to raise awareness about poverty and demand that governments keep their promises to end extreme poverty by 2015, said Ciara O'Sullivan, GCAP media and communication coordinator.

The global event lasts from 4 p.m. Tuesday until 4 p.m. Wednesday. Individual programs around the world must take place within that time period, with respect to time zones.

SEE POVERTY, PAGE 5

WKU brings health care to Belize

Nursing, dental hygiene programs to offer aid in Gales Point

ALEX BOOZE

Herald reporter

A group of Western students and staff are gearing up to help people in need, while also helping themselves.

The nursing and dental hygiene departments are sending seven students and a handful of faculty and staff to participate in a service learning trip to Belize.

They're also sending expert physicians, dentists and other health care professionals.

The trip will aid the town of Gales Point, Belize, a small community of about 500 people.

The goal of the trip is to provide the town with much-needed medical and dental care, along with the expertise of physicians, dentists and nurses.

The trip is expected to take place in early January and will last 10 days.

SEE BELIZE, PAGE 7

"We want to tell as many people as we can to raise awareness."



Alex Fortson

ALEX SLITZ/ HERALD



2DAY

SUDOKU

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►CRIME REPORTS

REPORTS

◆ Jon Dillard, 1336 Adams St., reported on Oct. 9 his T-Mobile Sidekick 3 and keys stolen from his backpack in the Preston Center. The value of the theft was \$275.

◆ Laine Brown Jr., Northeast Hall, reported on Oct. 8 his wallet, BB&T check card and \$45 stolen from the Preston Center locker room. The value of the theft was \$65.

◆ Kimberly Walsh, McLean Hall, reported on Oct. 5 her CD player and iPod adapter stolen from her 2001 Oldsmobile Alero in parking structure one. The value of the theft was \$250.

◆ Ryne Biesterveld, Bates-Runner Hall, reported on Oct. 5 his tool box containing a Craftsman 100-piece tool set, emergency roadside kit, Black & Decker screwdriver set, Black & Decker 12-volt converter and a pocket metric tool set stolen from his Chevrolet S-10 truck. The value of the theft was \$250.

◆ Joel Warner, Keen Hall, reported on Oct. 7 his Xbox 360 with two controllers, six Xbox 360 games, eight DVDs and a National City Visa card stolen from his dorm room. The value of the theft was \$800.

ARRESTS

◆ James R. Lewis, Pearce-Ford Tower, was arrested on Oct. 9 and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released from Warren County Regional Jail Oct. 10 on a court order.

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a thousand words

JAKE STEVENS



A dog’s best friend

Keith, if you don’t do something, we’re going to kill it.”

Keith Milby, owner and operator of Gone to the Dogs Daycare, hears that a lot.

Milby is the last chance for some of society’s most exploited, neglected and abused.

The Western graduate, who majored in marketing, worked for 16 years in sales. He’s now working at his dream job and rescuing some of man’s best friends.

Most dogs that Milby takes in are rescued from abusive homes.

Milby and his employees, such as Diane Towson, go a step beyond the daycare by fostering and training the rescued dogs so they can place them into good families.

People are less likely to give up dogs that have been trained, so his efforts prevent dogs from being put to sleep, he said.

Milby usually fosters high-risk dogs, which are dogs that are older than one year. Those are the dogs least likely to be adopted, and he tries to keep them from being put to sleep.

“It’s very gratifying,” he said. “I work usually 12 to 13 hours a day and love every minute of it.”

At Milby’s cage-free facility, dogs run free. Unlike traditional boarding businesses, the cage-free environment teaches dogs how to be better behaved.



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CAMPUS LIFE



KELLIE MAYNIER/HERALD  
Louisville freshman Shailyn Armstrong, left, and Butler freshman Kelsey Turner participate in Shantytown on DUC South Lawn Wednesday night along with the rest of the women of Bemis Lawrence Hall. Turner said she decided to participate “because I just like helping people.”

# Students build shanties to focus on homelessness

ERIC ISBELL  
Herald reporter

On a given night in October 440,000 people experience homelessness. In 2006, 250 of those people were Western students.

Members of the Bowling Green and campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity donned shirts with the above statement on their backs.

Yesterday’s event was the 17th annual Shantytown. Shantytown is an event where students gather together and build “shanties,” houses made of cardboard to raise awareness about homelessness.

Most of the materials used to build the shanties were taken from various businesses around the community, ranging everywhere from Wal-Mart to recycling places, said several participants of Shantytown.

Bowling Green senior Seth Cude said he got his shanty materials from his job.

“I’m on the recycling crew, so I just took the day’s haul,” he said.

Shantytown is co-sponsored by the Residence Hall Association and the local chapter of the Habitat for Humanity.

“One of the main purposes of Shantytown is to raise awareness that even people our own age can be homeless too,” said Teri Lafontaine, Resident Hall Association president.

Laura Leech, the representative for the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, said they hope Shantytown raises awareness of the homeless problems not only in the United States, but in the world as well.

Leech hopes the event educates students on the severity of homelessness.

“Sometimes when in college,

students forget that there are people who don’t have the same opportunity to go to college as they do,” she said. “They have to worry about other things. They have to worry about what to eat and if they are going to be able to find warmth. This is to help remind students about what they have that others don’t: food and shelter.”

Several people sat near the sidewalk watching students build the shanties.

Bowling Green resident Steve Park came out to watch students build the cardboard houses, and laughed as he admitted he would not stay out with the students until 3 a.m. because he said it was too cold.

Louisville junior Gail Forbes said that last year’s Shantytown was an eye-opening experience for her. She participated in the event last year because she was a resident assistant for Pearce-Ford Tower.

“You learned more respect and sympathy for the homeless community,” she said.

She said she is worried about the publicity of the event, because larger cities are known to have more coverage of the homeless issues, where cities such as Bowling Green are not as publicized.

“It was a new experience to see what homeless people have to go through,” she said.

Reggie Lane, a senior from Bradenton, Fla., also enjoys the camaraderie he experienced with others.

Lane is a resident assistant for Northeast Hall.

Last year, he said, the event allowed him to know people better, not only in his dorm, but in other resident halls as well.

Another reason why many students enjoy participating in Shantytown is for dorm pride.

Cardboard awards will be given to various dorms. Some of the awards are Best Teamwork Award, Campbell Soup Kitchen Award and the Most Pimped Shanty Award.

Even though Shantytown is supposed to be a fun and enjoyable event, Leech still stresses that homelessness is not just

in large cities, but in our own backyard, she said.

Leech said that one of the main problems is that Warren County has a variety of buildings that have substandard housing, some that are in danger of being condemned. She said that the people in these buildings are on the verge of being homeless if that happens.

Bowling Green junior Antonio James feels that Shantytown will get across and have an impact on the community.

“It will raise questions amongst people, which they are sure to seek the answers for,” he said.

Proceeds from Shantytown go to the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity to help fund the Centennial House.

The proceeds will also help fund trips for the Habitat members to go to other chapters in the region, and help out with their institutes.

Reach Eric Isbell at [diversions@chherald.com](mailto:diversions@chherald.com).

“This is to help remind students about what they have that others don’t: food and shelter.”

— Laura Leech  
Habitat representative

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**TOPS** to Provost Barbara Burch reconsidering the study day issue. We like to see that someone other than students thinks it's important.

**BOTTOMS** to midterms and that mid-semester funk. We've gotten to the point where we're tired and stressed, but the end's still so far away.

**TOPS** to student involvement and goals for Up 'til Dawn. Being in the top 10 is impressive, and setting higher goals this year is even better.

**TOPS** to the 10K event runners, sponsors, volunteers and organizers. It's a cool event with some great perks.

**BOTTOMS** to the craziness of street closings and parking issues associated with the race. If you're not involved with the race, it can be frustrating.

**TOPS** to campus police officers being recognized for saving a life this summer. They did a great job in a scary situation.

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The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. **Here are a few guidelines:**

1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be 700-800 words.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries **MUST** include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.

#### DISCLAIMER

**The opinions expressed in this newspaper DO NOT reflect those of Western's employees or of its administration.**

# OPINION

Thursday, October 11, 2007  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, Kentucky  
[www.wkuherald.com](http://www.wkuherald.com)

STAFF EDITORIAL

## Cost act a good deal

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act may hurt some loan organizations in Kentucky, but will still benefit students

College is stressful: Roommates. Exams. Money.

Not to mention figuring out the rest of one's life.

But never fear, Congress is here... at least for one of these issues, and for that we're glad.

On Sept. 27, President Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act into law. The act, which was approved by the House 292 to 97 and by the Senate 79 to 12, will provide roughly \$20 billion of financial assistance to college students.

The act will have a positive impact on students, although it may have a negative impact on some non-profit loan organizations in Kentucky.

Provisions of the bill include:

■ Increasing the maximum annual Pell grant in the 2008-09 school year from \$490 to \$4,800. The scholarship will reach its maximum value of \$5,400 per year by 2012-13.

■ Decreasing interest rates on federally subsidized loans. The rates will drop from 6.8 percent to 6 percent in July, and will be reduced by half, to 3.4 percent, by July 1, 2011.

■ Capping annual loan payments for students at a percentage of their income. Students with new and existing loans will be able to join the income-based repayment system by July 1, 2009.

■ Students who commit to teaching in public schools or holding public service positions will also receive special assistance.

Kentucky senators Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning voted against the bill. McConnell said he opposed the bill because it cut funds to already existing state student aid programs such as the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC) and the Kentucky High Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

"When you cut payments to them, you're cutting subsidies to students, parents, nurses and National Guard members throughout Kentucky," he said. McConnell said he had received letters from several state organizations opposing the bill.

Although the act may decrease funding for these organizations, it overwhelmingly benefits students in Kentucky and across the nation.



Kentucky students will still receive financial assistance, perhaps even more than before, but the source of that assistance may change.

The state must realize that the good vastly outweighs the bad. The act may have an initial negative effect and Kentucky may have to do some restructuring, but it's a small price to pay for making college more affordable to the masses.

It seems the government is finally getting serious about this "No Child Left Behind" thing.

*This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 11-member editorial board.*

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

##### Empty holsters to protest concealed carry ban

During the week of Oct. 22 students nationwide will be wearing empty firearm holsters on campus to raise awareness and to support concealed carry on campus.

It is our belief that those individuals who have qualified to obtain a concealed carry license and who already do so everyday off-campus without incident should be allowed to do so on campus as well.

For more information go to the "Students for Concealed Carry on Campus" website at [concealedcampus.org](http://concealedcampus.org) or email [nathan.hayes@wku.edu](mailto:nathan.hayes@wku.edu) with questions. There is also a Facebook group.

**Nathan Hayes**  
Louisville senior

#### COMMENTARY

## Don't panic: A student's guide to dropped classes



**TONY SMITH**  
Herald designer

For most students, fall break was a brief liberation from the reigns of morning classes, monotone lectures and due dates. For myself it was a harrowing journey of panic, stress and anxiety. What could have driven me into turmoil in a time meant for rest and relaxation? Two bold words from the Billings and Receivables Office: Cancellation Notice.

The words, "your schedule has been dropped," and "if your payment is not received by October 10, it will be assumed that you are not attending Western this semester," spilled off the page into my gut. I received this notice on Wednesday afternoon, the first moments of my illustrious fall break were ruined by the ever-looming gloom of my piss-poor financial situation.

What ensued was a weekend of fear, a weekend of uncertain future academic conquests, a weekend unfit for the likes of fall break. How did I get here?

Since 2005, I've taken out student loans to allow me the pleasure of referring to myself as a Hilltopper. Getting approved via FAFSA was an arduous task, but was crucial. So each year at the end of the summer my parents and I update our financial information and hope for the best. This year I thought I was awarded \$4000 plus for each respective semester. I thought I was "good to go" if you will. It turns out my \$4000 plus had to stretch over the entire year, leaving me just a few grand short, thus granting me the special delivery

of a cancellation notice.

So here are some things you should know about having your schedule dropped: You can't use Blackboard or TopNet. Several of my classes are Blackboard based, and I had a hell of a time retrieving the material I needed for my weekend assignments. Have you ever tried to get an unfamiliar classmate to give you their username and password to gain access to your assignments? Well, it's damn near impossible, regardless of how trustworthy you might seem.

Admittedly, I neglected to work this mess out with the Billings and Receivables Office prior to Monday. When I received the notice around 5:30p.m., the offices were closed for the day and since it was fall break, I assumed they wouldn't re-open until the following Monday morning. I was told that the office was actually open through the Friday of fall break and that I had been notified of my impending

cancellation through several e-mails prior to Oct. 3. I check my inbox daily and have since double-checked for any cancellation invoices, leading me to believe that wizards or God prevented me from seeing these e-mails, or they don't exist. My school career could've gone the way of socks in the dryer.

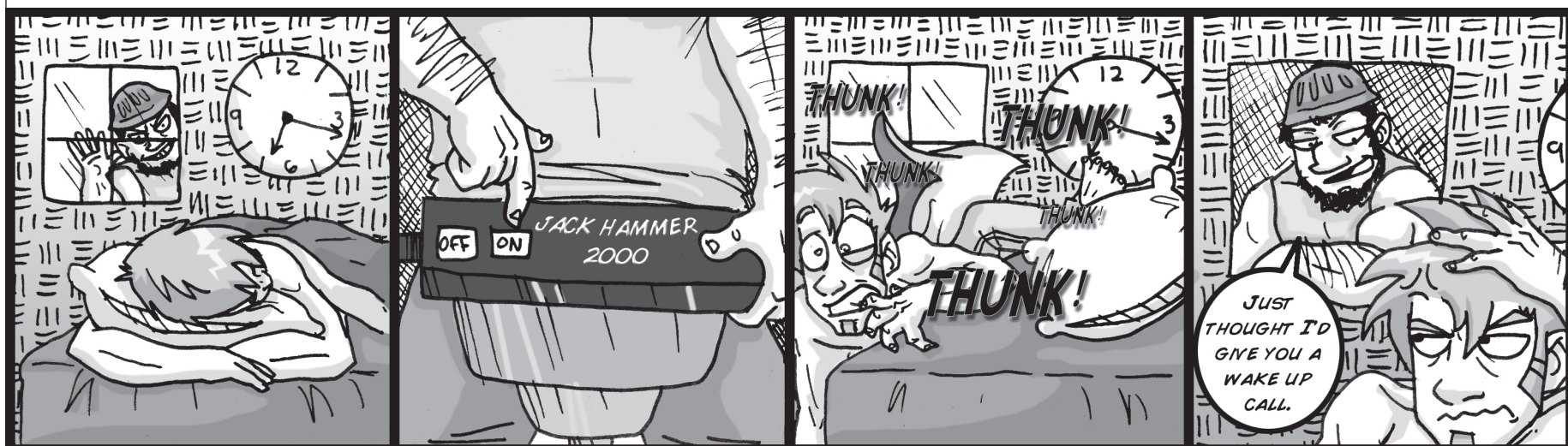
In the future I would advise the heads at the Billings and Receivables Office to ship their academic pink slips before a notably celebrated extended weekend. I would also appreciate a hard copy advance pre-cancellation notice, say sometime in September. I figure I'll be writing checks to Western for the next 20 years, so I'd appreciate a little more effort on their part when it comes to informing me that my cord's been cut.

*The opinions expressed in this commentary do not reflect those of the Herald or the university.*

## Annie's

### OUTLOOK

A cartoon strip by Annie Erskine





FACILITIES

# Owensboro campus to get expansion

CHRISTINA HOWERTON  
Herald reporter

Students and faculty on Western's Owensboro campus will get more program options and classroom space.

The Daviess County Fiscal Court bought 29 acres of land across from Owensboro Community and Technical College, which partners with Western's regional campus in Owensboro, President Gary Ransdell said.

A 30,000 square foot building will be built on the land.

Daviess County Commissioner Bruce Kunze said an architect will be chosen by the end of the year and officials will take bids for construction in March.

Construction of the building will begin in 2008.

Court officials' intentions are to pay for one building on the campus.

They will allocate about \$6 million for the building, Kunze said.

The space Western's campus and OCTC share is constrained because of enrollment increases, Ransdell said.

The number of students increased by about 32 students between 2005 and 2006, according to the Owensboro campus enrollment report.

The new building will be leased to Western so that the programs at the Owensboro campus can be expanded, he said.

It will also be shared with OCTC, which offers associate's degree programs.

Western's Owensboro campus currently offers 12 undergraduate programs and 10

graduate programs, said Don Swoboda, dean of extended learning and outreach.

Classes at the campus are taught in person, through video and online.

Expansion in Owensboro is planned to help increase the number of bachelor's degree holders in Kentucky, Swoboda said.

Swoboda said a significant increase in the number of bachelor's degree holders would help economic development and leadership in the community and the state.

Ransdell said it's important to build regional campuses because Western has a responsibility to serve 26 counties.

"We just want to make sure we have the same quality in Owensboro, Elizabethtown and Glasgow," he said.

"They are part of the WKU family too."

Western, OCTC and Daviess County officials also intend to have a two-phase technology building constructed on the land to house administrative officials, faculty offices and student services, Ransdell said.

It will cost about \$14 million, according to Western's six-year capital plan.

That project was vetoed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher last year, but Western officials are hoping the approval of the building will be restored in the next legislative session, which begins next year.

Officials plan to build four or five new buildings on the Owensboro campus, Kunze said.

Reach Christina Howerton  
at news@chherald.com.

## POVERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

About 23.5 million people worldwide stood up last year, setting a new Guinness World Record.

The GCAP and the United Nations Millennium Campaign want to break the record this year, according to a Stand Up press release.

The program will consist of live music and giveaways.

Kim Smith, Stand Up regional coordinator, will speak at the event and bring an international speaker. The speaker hasn't been announced.

Everyone who attends will stand up at the same time at the end of the program, Vaughan said.

The event should last about 30 minutes, but there will be activities afterward for people who want to stay, Vaughan said.

The event is seeing an increase

in youth involvement, and young people are better able to organize, because they're at school during the week, O'Sullivan said.

GCAP wants to see more youth involvement to increase creativity and long-term involvement in the campaign against poverty, she said.

"By getting more youth involvement, it will become a more sustainable campaign," O'Sullivan said. "There will be no dramatic change by the end of the 17th, but we want to build momentum for the future."

Vaughan, who is also a Student Government Association senator, sponsored a resolution officially recognizing and supporting Stand Up Against Poverty Day that passed SGA Senate Tuesday.

"It's necessary for SGA to support this global cause," Vaughan said. "It helps Western to be a leading university with an international reach."

Reach Michelle Day  
at news@chherald.com.

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## ACADEMICS

# ACT proposal goes to vote

SUSIE LAUN  
Herald reporter

ACT requirements for credit-bearing courses are one step closer to changing.

The General Assembly's Administrative Regulation Review Committee passed the Council on Postsecondary Education's recommendation to change the college readiness standard on the ACT.

CPE is still waiting on approval from the Interim Joint Education Committee, said Sherri Noxel, director of academic assessment at CPE.

CPE's proposal would change required ACT scores for high school students to get into credit-bearing courses in college.

If the proposal is approved, students would be required to get a 19 on the math sec-

tion and a 21 in reading to be guaranteed placement in credit-bearing courses.

These changes won't affect college admissions.

CPE and state officials had a public hearing on Oct. 9 to discuss and approve the regulation, Noxel said.

The committee has 30 days after the regulation has been placed on its agenda to approve, acknowledge or deny it.

It will become law as long as it isn't denied, Noxel said.

CPE will voluntarily withdraw the regulation if it is found deficient by the Interim Joint Education Committee, she said.

Noxel said she wasn't sure when the regulation would be placed on the committee's agenda for review.

Sen. Dick Roeding, R-Lakeside Park, is co-chair-

man of the committee that approved the regulation in a unanimous vote on Tuesday.

He said increasing the ACT requirement for students to get into credit-bearing courses is a good idea because it will prevent students from being underprepared for college.

"Most of those don't make it," he said. "This helps ensure that they'll graduate."

Rep. Robert Damron, D-Nicholasville, is the other co-chairman.

Damron said CPE has done a good job educating all affected parties on the importance of a requirement change.

"The focus is to have students better prepared," he said.

*Reach Susie Laun  
at [news@chherald.com](mailto:news@chherald.com).*

## CAMPUS LIFE

# CTC to host depression screening

KATHARINE GREENE  
Herald reporter

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students.

Untreated depression can lead to suicide, according to [www.healthyminds.org](http://www.healthyminds.org).

To help students combat depression, the Counseling and Testing Center is hosting a free depression screening tomorrow for National Depression Screening Day.

There will be a table set up in Downing University Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Betsy Pierce, staff psychologist in the Counseling and Testing Center, is coordinating the event this year.

The depression screening is a self-administered questionnaire that checks for symptoms of depression or

other related psychological disorders, Pierce said.

The screening, scoring and feedback takes less than 10 minutes.

Jason Lin, a sophomore from Guangzhou, China, plans to get screened for depression tomorrow.

Lin said that many of his friends are depressed, and they often discuss how the stresses of college contribute to it.

According to [www.chinadaily.com](http://www.chinadaily.com), depression is one of the top three public health problems in China. About 5 percent of Chinese people suffer from depression.

Some warning signs of depression include a depressed mood most of the day, change in sleeping and eating patterns, lack of pleasure in previously enjoyed

activities and sluggishness, Pierce said.

Associate Psychology Professor Rick Grieve has volunteered to help with depression screening for three years.

Grieve said the levels of serotonin in the brain affect mood. A person with high levels of serotonin is often in a good mood.

Pierce stressed the importance of getting screened or helped for depression.

"Clinical depression is a true illness which can be helped through therapy and/or medication," she said. "It is not just a matter of needing to pull yourself up by your bootstraps. And there are lots of resources to provide help."

*Reach Katharine Greene  
at [diversions@chherald.com](mailto:diversions@chherald.com).*

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COLUMN

Costumes should be less trashy, more classy



THAT’S WHAT SHE SAID  
Heather Ryan

It’s no secret, Halloween is almost here. It’s quite possibly the most important holiday in any of our college careers. The costumes. The decorations. The drinks. The trips to Jackson’s Orchard. Ah, Halloween.

Often times, the buildup before the big event is most of the fun. I know from experience that many of us (in this instance, us means women) have an idea, an image of the perfect costume. It usually lies somewhere in between cute and witty and a little... how should I say this? Revealing.

Want to be Little Bo Peep? Many of us will try to sex it up to Little “Ho” Peep. Want to be a witch? More often than not, that witch is going to be sporting a short skirt, fishnets and some black knee-high boots instead of a wart-covered nose.

Now don’t get me wrong, I’ve tried my share of costume ideas that have led me to regret my decision almost immediately. Trying to be Marilyn Monroe and Bettie Page were not my best moments.

I’m just saying, why do we feel like Halloween should be a day when “the girls” are out for everyone to get a good look?

I know some of those costumes are way cute. We all want to feel like “The Girls Next Door” every once in a

while. I guess Halloween is the only day we won’t get a dirty look from someone about it.

That’s great, I get that. I want to be one of Hef’s lucky ladies, too. Can’t we do it with a little more wit, a little more style and, dare I say it ... a little more class?

I know I have no authority to tell anyone how to put together a costume. But let me just say this, coming up with something brilliant, creative and unique is much better than being the fourth girl at a party with a “sexy nurse” or a “sexy cop” or a sexy whatever costume from Halloween Express.

Trust me, how you feel when you walk into a party with everyone looking at your amazing costume is going to feel a lot better than spending the first of November untagging all of those unflattering photos on Facebook.

I’ve been there and I’m still trying to get rid of some of the photos from last year. Challenge yourself to walk through the doors to your best pal’s house rocking an outfit that didn’t cost \$50 or come out of a plastic bag.

Not only will you feel better about the way you look, but you might be a little warmer, too.

Reach Heather Ryan at [diversions@chherald.com](mailto:diversions@chherald.com).

I’m just saying, why do we feel like Halloween should be a day when “the girls” are out for everyone to get a good look.

BELIZE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

John Bonaguro, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, said the program originated at the University of Louisville 10 years ago.

“We are building onto the project and we are hoping to make it into a long-term commitment,” Bonaguro said. “We want to be involved in this project for the next five years, maybe longer.”

The group might also check the water quality for both the human and manatee populations at and surrounding Gales Point, said Becky Taber, an assistant professor in the nursing department who’ll participate in the trip.

The water quality is poor, so the department of public health might bring students to test the water to make sure it is safe for citizens and animals, but department members aren’t sure yet whether they’re participating, Taber said.

Ritchie Taylor, assistant professor of the department of public health, couldn’t be reached to confirm whether public health department members will go on the trip.

A sanctuary was created by the residents of Gales Point to protect the manatees and develop conservation-oriented tourism. Today, the lagoon is home to one of the region’s largest manatee



populations, according to [www.belize-vacation.com](http://www.belize-vacation.com).

The cost per person for the trip is \$2,500, which each participant pays out of pocket, Taber said. She said it’s money well spent.

There are scholarships available to study abroad for students participating in the trip,

and each student will receive three hours of course credit for the winter term, Taber said.

“We are still in the preliminary planning stages,” Taber said. “But I think it is going to be a wonderful experience.”

Reach Alex Booze at [news@chherald.com](mailto:news@chherald.com).

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FACILITIES

# Textbook reservations rise

CHRISTINA HOWERTON  
Herald reporter

During the two weeks before this semester started, University Bookstore employees put together about 4,200 book orders.

Last fall, they had about 2,800 textbook reservations, Book Manager Forrest Halford said.

The increase is primarily because of information at the Academic Transitions Program, but the numbers have increased each year since bookstore officials first offered reservations.

The number of reservations increased this semester because the bookstore participated in sessions at the transitions program, said Jim Sears, assistant director of the bookstore.

Officials also set up an information booth with computers to

reserve books on the spot.

“We put it right in front of their face, and they took advantage of it,” Sears said.

The freshman classes usually have the most reservations.

Students can reserve textbooks on TopNet, and the books are billed to their university bill.

The correct books are pulled based on students’ schedule and their professors’ requests.

Students are more likely to get used books when they reserve them. On average, there’s a 25 percent savings with used books, Halford said.

Sears said he wants each box of books purchased to be full when it is handed over to students.

“If each box is missing three books, that’s not a success,” he said.

Bookstore employees can

pull all of a students’ books if all professors turn in a list of books they need for classes.

Bowling Green sophomore Coleman Martin said he reserved his textbooks last fall.

He said it was accurate and easy because he didn’t have to wait in line for books.

“It’s convenient, especially if you need your books right then,” he said.

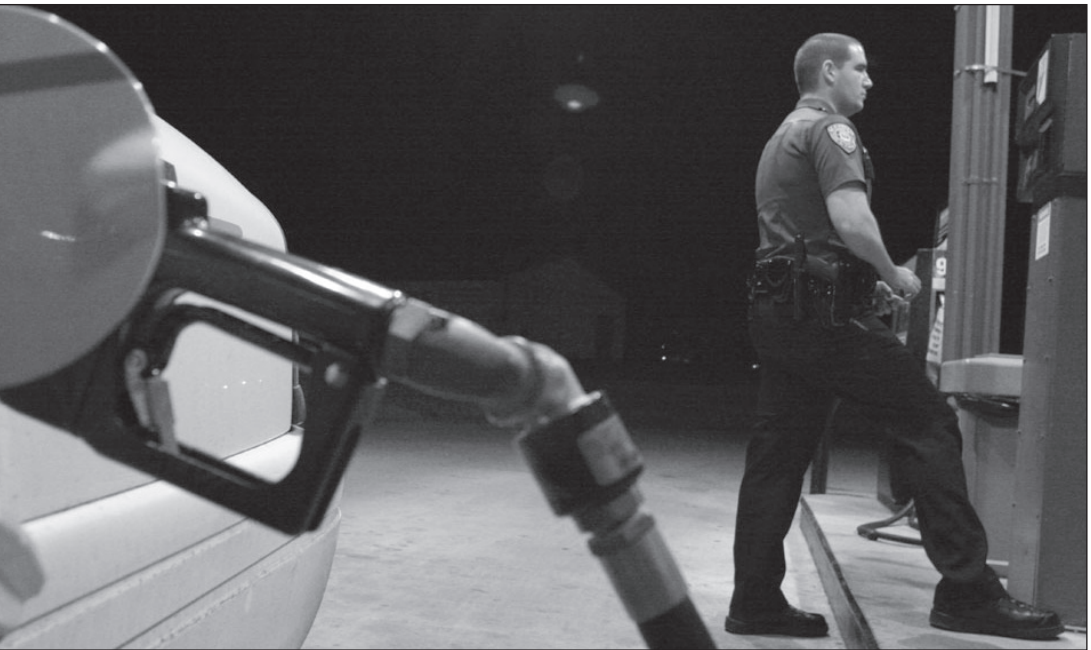
Halford said he believes the number of reservations will continue to increase.

Employees will buy back more used books each semester so students will still save money by reserving books.

Books can be reserved for the spring beginning Oct. 17, said Halford.

*Reach Christina Howerton at news@chherald.com*

BOWLING GREEN



SCOTT MCINTYRE/ HERALD

Campus police officer Brandon Miller fills up the gas tank of his police cruiser at the Comfuel station on Louisville Road. The increase in fuel costs combined with vehicle maintenance is making it more difficult for campus police to patrol around Western.

# Gas prices cause vehicle shortages for campus police

CHRIS BRYNE  
Herald reporter

While police and fire departments in Bowling Green struggle with gas prices, the campus police said a shortage of vehicles also causes problems for their department.

Campus police only have five marked vehicles, said Capt. Mike Dowell, public information officer with campus police.

“We usually have one or two cars out of service for mechanical reasons at any given time,” Dowell said.

There are four police cars currently in service that are shared by all the officers, Officer Robert Boyden said.

Campus police has 25 officers, but there are only about three to five of them on patrol on any given night, Dowell said.

Even if there are enough cars to go around, running them nearly 24 hours per day really adds to

the wear and tear, Dowell said.

To lighten the load on their cars, campus police use bikes and foot patrol year-round, Boyden said.

Dowell agreed that the bike and foot patrols are vital, but the patrols can only do so much.

“We do try to use the bike and foot patrols whenever they’re available, but sometimes we must respond quickly,” Dowell said.

The city police department has no shortage of vehicles, but it still has problems budgeting gas, said Officer Barry Pruitt, public information officer with the Bowling Green Police Department.

The Bowling Green Fire Department has a similar situation, said Deputy Chief Jerry Oliver.

There are eight front-line fire trucks and three in reserve, in case any of the main trucks break down, Oliver said.

“I’ve been here 20 years, and we’ve only had to call the coun-

ty for help a few times — it’s extremely rare,” Oliver said.

There are also 13 staff vehicles, Oliver said. These vehicles go to the chief, deputy chief, fire marshals and others who are on-call 24 hours per day.

The fire department has taken several steps to combat high gas prices. They have replaced Chevy Blazers with Dodge Chargers in an attempt to get more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The fire department also takes care not to under budget fuel costs.

Last year, the fire department estimated gas prices at \$3 a gallon for the entire year.

“We came out with a surplus for the last two years because the gas prices have fluctuated so much,” Oliver said. “We have also made cuts and been more conservative with vehicle use.”

*Reach Chris Byrne at news@chherald.com.*

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PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ALEX FORTSON

## Issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He is currently trying to get support for the effort.

His current efforts follow several months of helping Ugandan children through mission work and touring with Invisible Children.

He went to an event sponsored by Invisible Children in February 2006 in which people left their homes and slept outside to raise awareness about displacement camps in Uganda.

Fortson met an Invisible Children employee at the event. She invited him to apply to work for Invisible Children and promised him a recommendation.

Fortson took the employee's invitation and applied to Invisible Children.

He got the job and moved to California to begin booking a tour to screen Invisible Children's documentary.

His team toured in Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. The screenings were mostly in high schools and colleges, including Western.

"People were very accepting of us and our message," Fortson said.

Lisa Dougan, regional manager for Invisible Children, traveled with Fortson during the tour.

Dougan remembers that Fortson constantly read books about the issues in Africa.

"He was always hungry to learn," Dougan said. "I was so impressed and humbled."

Fortson lives very simply, Dougan said.



"He doesn't mess around with small talk," she said. "If he has a conversation, it's going to be genuine."

Fortson first saw the Invisible Children documentary while living in Orlando.

"It opened my eyes," Fortson said.

The film inspired him to go on a trip to Uganda in the summer of 2006 with Children of Nations, a Christian non-profit organization that was counseling formerly abducted child soldiers.

"The war was still going on at the time, and I really respected that this organization would walk right in anyway,"

— Alex Fortson  
Orlando junior

"The war was still going on at the time, and I really respected that this organization would walk right in anyway,"

Fortson said in on the counseling sessions and spent time talking to and playing games with the children.

"I learned that the things on television are real," he said.

Fortson said his trip to Uganda re-enforced his understanding of the problems in Africa and gave him the experience he needed to get the job with Invisible Children.

Fortson said the movie "Hotel Rwanda" first got him interested in African issues because he connected with the people in the movie.

"It's easy to watch the news and view things like its an us and them world," Fortson said. "The movie made it a more us world, and there wasn't a them."

Fortson said the United States should make helping people in Africa a priority.

"In Africa, nine out of 10 situations are life or death," he said.

Reach Michelle Day  
at news@chherald.com.

### CAMPUS LIFE

## GreenToppers seek solution to inconvenient on-campus recycling

MICHELLE DAY  
Herald reporter

Getting a recycling bin on campus is a problem with a \$14,000 solution, but GreenToppers President Christian Ryan-Downing says the cost is worth it.

"It would save money at the landfill, but it's not about the money," Ryan-Downing said. "It's about providing a service to the campus community and being a model for the community."

Ryan-Downing is working with facilities management and the Student Government Association to raise money for a recycling bin for plastics and glass.

SGA will vote on Oct. 16 on a resolution to allocate \$7,000 from the SGA budget

toward a campus recycling bin, Administrative Vice President Cherieth Lineweaver said.

Recycling is the No. 1 environmental issue students ask GreenToppers about, Ryan-Downing said. Currently, students have to drive off campus to recycle their plastic and glass products.

That's inconvenient for students, especially high school students at the Academy for Math and Science in Kentucky, she said.

Facilities management hired Ryan-Downing as a recycling intern and asked her to identify issues with the recycling program on campus.

The main problem with the recycling program is that there isn't a budget for recycling

bins or awareness campaigns, Ryan-Downing said.

Ryan-Downing prepared a proposal over the summer and presented it to SGA, which has money in its budget for campus improvements.

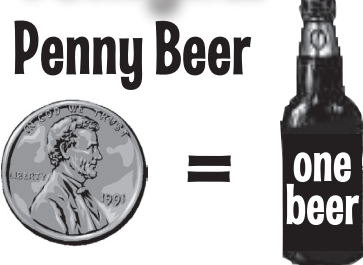
Facilities management would cover the other \$7,000, Lineweaver said.

The goal of the resolution is to provide money for a new recycling bin to make recycling easier for students, said Nate Eaton, the SGA campus improvements committee chairman.

The collection bin will be serviced by Southern Recycling and will be near the Downing University Center, he said.

Reach Michelle Day  
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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### CPE to submit budget to General Assembly

The Council on Post-Secondary Education is in the process of working on the budget it will recommend to the General Assembly.

A draft of the budget will be sent to officials on Oct. 26.


CPE is working with university presidents, chief financial officers, CPE staff and board members to draft the budget.

CPE will pass the budget on Nov. 5 and sent it to the governor, who will write a state budget proposal to be submitted to the General Assembly in January, said Robbin Taylor,

assistant to the president for governmental relations.

"The budget that CPE recommends will not likely be all we want, but it will be the result of a cooperative effort between the universities and the council staff," she said.

— Susie Laun

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TABOO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Even though the Toppers have created eight turnovers so far this season, seven of them came in their 87-0 victory over NAIA-affiliated West Virginia Tech. They have failed to force a turnover in their last two games.

“We put an emphasis on turnovers with strip drills and interception drills,” junior defensive back Travis Watters said. “This week we want to just try to create as many turnovers as we can. We’ve just got to go harder for the ball. We’ve got to take it away, be more aggressive.”

Elson said not much has changed in practice from the coaches’ side.

“We’re gonna coach the fundamentals of football throughout practice,” he said. “And really try to attack it from that way opposed to me giving a sermon every day about how important turnovers are.”

This Saturday, Western combats an offensive tool in Ball State they haven’t seen too much of thus far.

Darius Hill, the 6-foot-6-inch, 233-pound junior tight end, stands second on the Cardinals receiving charts, collecting 444 yards with six touchdowns.

“Tight ends are weapons that we really haven’t faced a lot of,” Elson said.

The Toppers’ secondary has an average height and weight of just over 5-foot-10-inches and 189 pounds.

Elson said height is sometimes overrated.

“If you’re playing good technique and you strip his hands from the football, you can combat that,” he said.

Junior wide receiver Dante Love leads the Cardinals with 38 receptions for 552 yards with six touchdowns.

Love also contributes on special teams, posting a school record 266 return yards against

Central Michigan, with a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the same game.

“They have big receivers, they are fast on the outside,” Watters said. “With the passing game that they’re trying to do, it’s going to give the DBs and the back men a challenge.”

Western’s defense gave up 301 passing yards against Bowling Green State (3-1) last Saturday.

On offense, the Toppers attack with a slight emphasis on running the ball, led by sophomore running back Tyrell Hayden, rushing 424 yards and five touchdowns.

“We like to grind them out and wear the other guys out,” sophomore offensive lineman Lloyd Pressley said. “The longer we’re out on the field, the more rest the defense gets.”

— Travis Watters  
Defensive Back

Reach Will Perkins  
at [sports@chherald.com](mailto:sports@chherald.com).



RYAN STONE/HERALD

Alaina Atcher

ATCHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Atcher’s break came by way of assistant coach Chris Tinius, who was then an intern in Western athletics’ marketing department and coaching a local club soccer team.

Atcher caught Tinius eye when she came on as a guest player for a summer tournament.

Tinius said he had never seen Atcher play before the tournament, but was quickly impressed with her work ethic and leadership.

“Alaina recognizes what she is good at and plays to those strengths,” Tinius said. “I respect that because that is the way I was as a player.”

Tinius contacted former teammate and then assistant coach Matt Hawkey about Atcher.

After watching a game and asking Tinius about her practices, Hawkey and Neidell con-

vened and agreed to take Atcher on as a walk-on.

Atcher redshirted her freshman year in 2004, and emerged during the 2005 season as a solid defense player who has played in 48 of the Lady Toppers last 50 matches, starting in 27 of them.

“Freshmen year was a trying year,” Atcher said. “We had a lot of away games. Everybody would come back with different stories and jokes and I’d have no idea what was happening. It was a little hard.”

While Atcher’s performance is not evident in the box score or stat column, Neidell said, her leadership is invaluable on a young team.

“Alaina is a quintessential leader by example,” Neidell said. “She is one of those players that everyone looks to for inspiration and motivation. She’s the heart and soul of our team.”

Sophomore defender Morgan Thomas said that while Alaina is not the most vocal of leaders, her words still have meaning.

“Alaina’s an amazing player,” Thomas said. “She always says the right things at the right time.”

Atcher will use that leadership as the Lady Toppers attempt to extend their winning streak this weekend against Arkansas State and Arkansas-Little Rock.

Neidell said Alaina’s defense would help this weekend.

“Alaina is the best one-on-one defender we have on our team,” Neidell said. “And she’s also probably the toughest player we have.”

The Lady Toppers next game is at 6 p.m. Friday against Arkansas State at the WKU Soccer Complex.

Reach Chris Acree  
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ROAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

“I really don’t remember too much about last year’s meet,” Lewis said. “I’m just really excited to get back into competition and see how the freshman will impact the team. We’re big in numbers this year so it should be very interesting.”

Following the Toppers season-opener against Delta State, their schedule thickens. They will fly to Detroit to compete against Oakland, Indiana University-Purdue or University Indianapolis and Wayne State. Oakland’s men’s team ranked fifth last season in the

CollegeSwimming.com Division I Mid-Major poll.

There are two new coaches this year on the staff, one being assistant coach Reed Robelot.

“I’m definitely very optimistic about Saturday,” Robelot said. “I’m hoping to learn a lot seeing them against another collegiate team other than ourselves.”

The Toppers will travel to Georgia Tech before hosting the Hilltopper Invite Nov. 16-18.

“Georgia Tech is always one of our toughest and most exciting competitions,” Marchionda said.

Meets at Arkansas-Little Rock and Boston College will give way to the final two home dual meets against Evansville on Jan. 19, and Southern Illinois on Jan 26.

Another meet that Marchionda said he is excited about traveling to will be against the University of Louisville. It is the teams’ final regular season meet before hosting the Sun Belt Conference tournament Feb. 28-March 1 in Nashville, Tenn.

“These will all just be tests,” Marchionda said.

For firstyear assistant coach Margarita Kalmikova, she is just excited for the season in general.

“We’re real tired as of right now,” Kalmikova said. “But once we’re on the blocks we’re very competitive and love to win meets. It oughta be fun.”

Reach Kori Farr  
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MEN'S SOCCER

# Toppers drop conference opener 3-0 at Evansville

RYAN CAREY  
Herald reporter

Heading into Tuesday night's Missouri Valley Conference opener at Evansville, Western was hoping to dig itself out of a poor start to its season.

Following a 3-0 loss, it is Western that may feel like it is down in a valley.

"I don't feel like the score represented the way we played," said head coach David Holmes.

Evansville (7-4, 1-0 Missouri Valley Conference) out-shot the Toppers (1-8-3, 0-1 MVC) 9-3 in the second half to give the Purple Aces the victory.

The Toppers played Evansville near even in the first half. They were tied in almost every category including shots.

"I thought we came out the first half and played well," freshmen forward Ben Backstrom said. "Then in the

second half they got the first goal, and it just went downhill after that."

Western has little time to dwell on this game as more conference matches approach.

Western faces Missouri State (4-7-1), and then the co-defending Missouri Valley Conference champions in No. 8 Creighton (5-1-3).

"Our job is to heal the injuries and get the spirits up," Holmes said. "Our objective is to get into the conference tournament and to do that we have to do well in these next two home games."

The Missouri Valley Conference teams have proven this season that they are capable of playing well.

So far this season, Missouri Valley Conference teams have been 37-27-11 in non-conference matches.

The conference has also fared well against the top 25 teams going 3-3-2, including Creighton, who beat former No. 2 Indiana and No. 24

Washington.

Last season Creighton shared the conference championship with Bradley (6-3-1).

However, the team with the best non-conference schedule so far is Eastern Illinois (8-2-3) who tied Drake (7-3-2) yesterday.

Eastern Illinois has never won a conference championship.

Sophomore defender Tim Muessig said she feels that it may not be such a bad thing to be surrounded by so many good teams.

"I think we are going in with not a very good record, but we all feel like it's a new start to a new part of the season," Muessig said. "The team has a new sense of urgency and confidence, and I think a lot of people are going to overlook us."

Western hosts Missouri State at 7 p.m. Saturday at the WKU Soccer Complex.

Reach Ryan Carey  
at [sports@chherald.com](mailto:sports@chherald.com).

## PIECING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

With MTSU nearing the top-25, coach Matt Peck said he is not worried about the fact they probably have the biggest target on their back.

"I don't think our team thinks about that," Peck said. "I think teams tend to get up to play us."

Hudson said that he realizes the weekend is going to be a measuring stick for where they stand in the East right now.

"The challenge is certainly there for us over the next seven

days," Hudson said.

For FIU, Tomic said that her team has to be mentally tough over the weekend and turn last weekend into something positive by learning from it.

"We realize the changes we have to make and the team is motivated to work hard," Tomic said.

Offensively, all three teams bring plenty of power. Western leads the conference with an overall hitting percentage of .290. MTSU and FIU follow with hitting percentages of .285 and .261, respectively.

Hudson said that the Lady Toppers are not playing particularly well right now.

"This isn't a stretch in our schedule where we can afford to do that," Hudson said. "Sometimes you have to win ugly in those stretches where you're not playing well and our kids have found a way to do that."

Western was taken to the brink by Arkansas-Little Rock on Saturday night, eventually winning 3-2.

And if this weekend doesn't clear up the standings well enough, FIU travels to Bowling Green on Oct. 26 before the Lady Toppers end their regular season schedule at MTSU on Nov. 10.

Reach Andrew Robinson  
at [sports@chherald.com](mailto:sports@chherald.com).

## CLUB ROUNDUPS

### Frisbee club wins 2, loses 2

The Ultimate Frisbee Club traveled to Vanderbilt for a two-day tournament this weekend. On the first day the club won two games, and the second day the club lost two games. Sports club representative Casey Walters said overall the tournament was to help out the new players and get them familiar with the mechanics of the game.

—WKU Sports Clubs

### Long wins second tourney

Western men's golfer Brent Long took medalist honors for the second week in a row at the

Mission Inn Collegiate Classic at the Mission Inn Resort last weekend.

The senior from Carthage, Tenn., tied with Cody Hale of Lipscomb at six-under-par 136 for the tournament.

### Lady Tops golf finishes 12th

The Western women's golf team finished in 12th place at the Arkansas State Lady Indian Classic on Tuesday afternoon with a two-round total of 650.

WKU carded a 317 in its opening round, and finished the tournament with a second-round score of 333.

Junior Lauren Scholl led the

Lady Toppers with a two-round score of 80-79 (159), tying her for 34th place overall out of 90 golfers. Scholl has earned the team's best score at all four of Western's tournaments this season.

Sophomore Emily Wolff fired an opening round 79, followed by a final round 82. Her cumulative total of 161 tied her for 41st overall. Competing as an individual, freshman Jordan Macgruder carded a total score of 167.

### Men's tennis to play at UK

The Western men's tennis team will take part in the UK Intercollegiate at Kentucky on Monday.

## CLASSIFIED INDEX

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► Men’s soccer  
Tops fall 3-0 at Evansville  
Page 13

EVENTS

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Women’s soccer vs.  
Arkansas State, 6 p.m. at  
the WKU Soccer Complex

Volleyball at Florida  
International, 6 p.m.

► Saturday  
Cross country at PreNCAAs,  
Terre Haute, Ind.

Cross country at MOC  
Classic, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Volleyball at Florida  
Atlantic, noon

► Sunday  
Women’s soccer vs.  
Arkansas-Little Rock, 1 p.m.

► Monday  
Volleyball vs. Middle  
Tennessee State in Diddle  
Arena, 7 p.m.

Sun Belt East Volleyball Standings		
<b>Middle Tennessee</b>	SBC 6-0	Overall 19-1
<b>Western Kentucky</b>	SBC 6-0	Overall 17-4
<b>Florida International</b>	SBC 6-2	Overall 11-4
<b>Troy</b>	SBC 4-4	Overall 13-11
<b>Florida Atlantic</b>	SBC 3-5	Overall 6-12
<b>South Alabama</b>	SBC 2-6	Overall 7-11

► SPORTS BRIEF

**Pegues out for season**  
Sophomore center A'Darius Pegues tore the ACL in his left knee in a pickup game over the weekend and will miss the 2007-08 season.  
Pegues was evaluated by Western's doctors and will undergo surgery before the end of the week.  
The injury for the 6-foot-10-inch, 230 pound Louisville native came just days before the official start of practice.  
"We are extremely disappointed for A'Darius because he has worked so hard to get to this point," coach Darrin Horn said in a press release yesterday. "Our main concern is for A'Darius personal well-being and getting him on the road to recovery."  
Pegues sat out the 2006-07 season, and missed his senior season at Western High because of an injury.  
While the official start of practice is tomorrow, Western's first public appearance will be a Red-White scrimmage at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 at Diddle Arena.

— Andrew Robinson

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SPORTS

Thursday, October 11, 2007  
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VOLLEYBALL



JAN DIEHM/HERALD

Piecing the East

Puzzling standings should  
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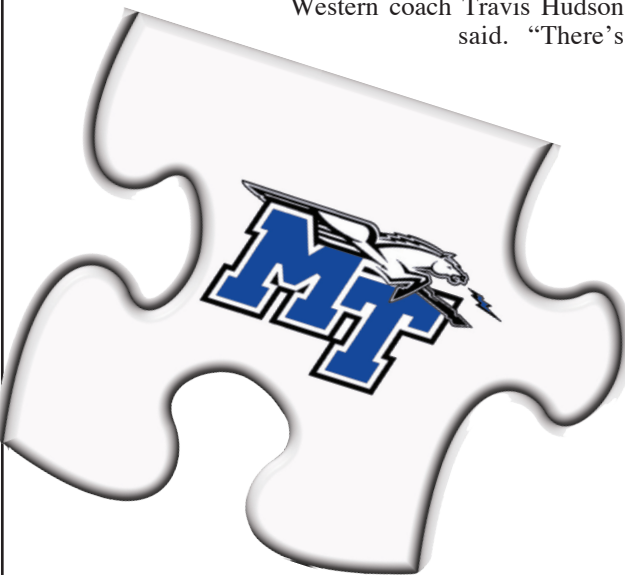
ANDREW ROBINSON  
Herald reporter

Miami is a town known for its beaches, nightlife and Latin culture.  
This weekend, it becomes the hub for a Sun Belt Conference East Division shindig that will clear up who is atop the standings.  
A self-proclaimed "underdog" by coach Danijela Tomic, Florida International hosts Middle Tennessee State and Western in a weekend that will showcase the East's top three teams.  
The Lady Toppers (17-4, 6-0 Sun Belt East Division) play FIU tomorrow night at Pharmed Arena. MTSU plays FIU (11-4, 6-2 SBC East) Saturday night.  
MTSU (19-1, 6-0 SBC East) and Western then turn around and play at 7 p.m. Monday in Diddle Arena.  
"I think it starts clearing it a little bit," Western coach Travis Hudson said. "There's



a lot of volleyball to be played."  
Western was picked by the Sun Belt coaches as the preseason underdog amongst the three teams. MTSU is sitting on the fringe of the AVCA Top 25 poll and FIU comes off losing two straight to Denver and North Texas last weekend.  
Historically, Western has dominated both teams, losing just six times in 38 matches against MTSU.  
The Lady Toppers have gone 17-4 against the Golden Panthers. But the Lady Toppers have not had much success recently against either team. The Blue Raiders beat Western 3-1 in Bowling Green in the last regular season match of the year.  
FIU ended Western's season in the Sun Belt Tournament last year and beat the Lady Toppers in Miami.

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SWIMMING AND DIVING

Topper team looks  
ahead to hard road

KORI FARR  
Herald reporter

When walking into Bill Powell Natatorium, the sounds of coaches yelling, music playing and panting swimmers can be heard.  
It is all part of the Toppers training for Saturday's meet against Delta State.  
"This has really been a tough week for our athletes," coach Bruce Marchionda said. "We're pretty beat up and tired. We've been hitting the dry lands pretty hard these past couple of weeks. We're basically just some tired ol' puppies."

Delta State is more than just an opening opponent for the Toppers. The Aqua Statesmen finished in the top 10 in the CollegeSwimming.com NCAA Division II poll last season.  
"(Delta State head) coach Brian Hein has done a real good job with his swimmers," Marchionda said. "He's got some talent but I just really want to think that we've got a lot more depth than they do, and that should take care of the meet."  
Senior team captain Brian Lewis said the depth in all events is going to be what makes the difference.



JARED HOLDER/HERALD

**Powder Springs, Ga., junior Kyle Johnson works on his freestyle stroke** yesterday afternoon at the Bill Powell Natatorium. The swim team is practicing for its first meet against Delta State University at 1 p.m. Saturday.

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FOOTBALL

Turnover taboo:  
Toppers to face  
tough opponent

WILL PERKINS  
Herald reporter

Head coach David Elson said he is through talking about offensive turnovers.  
"I'm done with dealing with turnovers," Elson said. "We're gonna practice, we're gonna play and if they happen, they happen. If they don't, they don't."  
Western (3-2) has turned the ball over eight times in the past two contests with 12 total giveaways in the season.  
"From a mentality standpoint, I think maybe we've made too big of a deal out of it," Elson said. "It may have had that exact effect that we're thinking about it too much."  
The Toppers have already proven they can protect the ball, committing no turnovers in their season-opening 49-3 loss to defending national champions Florida Gators.  
Western comes off a bye week for a 1 p.m. kick-off on Saturday at Ball State (3-3).

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ERIC BATEMAN/HERALD

**Indianapolis, Ind., junior Marcus Minor prepares for a play** during yesterday's practice. Western travels to Indiana to play Ball State University on Saturday.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Senior defender  
seizes opportunities

CHRIS ACREE  
Herald reporter

Persistence would be a word that defines senior defender Alaina Atcher, who has overcome a lot of adversity to play for the Lady Toppers.  
"Alaina has an incredible work ethic," coach Jason Neidell said. "She's given a lot of time and energy to this program."  
Atcher first showed this persistence when she pursued a spot on the Lady Topper roster, Neidell said.  
"I e-mailed Jason endlessly," Atcher said. "I called his office phone, I had my high school coaches e-mail him and send him letters. I did everything I could think of."

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